

[Esther Collins]

S241 - [REI?] DUP

FORM B Personal History of Informant

NAME OF WORKER Bessie Jollensten ADDRESS Ogallala, Nebr.

DATE Nov. 5, [1938?] SUBJECT Marrion Collins

NAME AND ADDRESS OF INFORMANT Ester Collins

1. Ancestry
2. Place and date of birth Born in stone house 4 miles south west of present site of Belmar, Nebr.
3. Family Collins both taught school
4. Place lived in, with dates Since 1907 has lived in home 1 block south of court house in Ogallala.
5. Education, with [[dates?]] In Ogallala Nebr.
6. Occupations and accomplishments, with dates Stenographer in conservation office at present.
7. Special skills and interests Office work
8. Community and religious activities goes to Congregational church, [taeched?] a class etc.

Library of Congress

9. Description of informant Short and dark [complected?]

10. Other points gained in interview

FORM C Text of Interview (Unedited)

NAME OF WORKER Bessie [Jollensten?] ADDRESS Ogallala, Nebr.

DATE Nov. 5, [1936?] SUBJECT Marrion Collins

Marrion S. Collins was born Jan. 19, 1862 Allegan County Michigan. 'twas April [?] when Mr. Collins came to Ogallala Nebraska where He took a homestead 10 miles south east of the present site of [Lowellen?], Neb.

He [?] proceeded to build him a one room sod house, and broke out as much prairie as he could, then went back and got his wife.

Later he build a one room house of native stone, also stone corrells, etc.

Here their three children were born to them, Harley E. Ester E. and Ruth E.

While on their homestead their postoffice was [Loullen?] [Louellen?] , Neb.

During the dry '90's they both taught school. One year Mrs. Collins taught the Geo. Williams school and crossed the river on the ice saving several miles drive, each day, her husband would help her across. One morning she stepped on a air hole in the ice and got thoroughly drenched, but they build a fire and dried her clothing as much as possible and she went on and taught school.

When they came to Ogallala they drove a team of work horses, hitched to a spring waglb wagon , a distance of 25 miles, for their groceries, and when they needed a doctor some

Library of Congress

one came in on horseback and they had to wait till he could come back the 25 miles with a horse and buggy.

One year while farming, [????????] said she never saw a green spear of grass until Decoration Day when she went to [Louellen?].

In 1907 Mr. and Mrs. Collins bought a fine home in Ogallala one block south of the courthouse, where their daughters [stall?] still reside.

From 1915 to 1918 Mr. Collins was janitor at the school building and in 1922 was appointed temporary mail carrier, of the first route out of Ogallala.

He was also caretaker of the lighting [system?] at the emergency landing field west of Ogallala, until his untimely death July, 7, [1928?].

Mrs. Nellie Collins passed away Aug. 21, 1933.